Leicester,
Sund. Eve.
March 4/77.

My dear friend Garrison;

19 Yesterday noon the two volumes of Miss Martineau's Autobiography arrived. I recognized Frank's hand in the address before opening the parcel, - which soon gave up its contents, the two remarkably neat & tasteful volumes which you are so very kind, considerate, & friendly as to send me. I thank you warmly; they are books I should value highly, if got in the ordinary way; how much more prized, in these circumstances, by me & all my family. I began to read Mrs. Chapman's Memorials aloud to my wife & daughters last Evening; have read, aloud & to myself, in the autobiography several hours to-day, & have resumed the aloud reading of the "Memorials" this evening, until my voice has got quite husky; but I must not sleep, without acknowledging to you the safe

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arrival of the books, and my great obligation to you for them, and sending my thanks to Frank too for so promptly sending them. We shall be likely to give a good deal of time to them, for many days to come.

They are volumes which cannot but call for a great deal of comment, — much criticism, — much dispute; & Mrs. Chapman will come in for her full share. I am agreeably pleased at finding Mrs. C.'s style more simple, less involved, than it formerly was; indeed, quite natural & often very impressive. But what an absolute charm there often is in Harriet Martineau's style, for transparent honesty & perfect simplicity. How rare, how almost unexampled, to find one's appreciation of one's self so just, cool, & sober; neither affected ~~by~~ in one direction or the other by egotism, — neither touched by conceit nor by self-disparagement.

I was very sorry, — very sorry, indeed —

to find, in the account of the historic meeting of the Female Anti-Slavery Society at Francis Jackson's house, that "Rev. Samuel May" was named as the one other man there besides Ellis Gray Loring, when it should have been that other so dear & faithful name "Samuel J. May". How could Mrs. Chapman be so inaccurate, - shall I say so careless - in her editing? Many readers will know at once who was meant; some may be confused; possibly some, misled. At all events, it is not correct; and no other name should be there but "Samuel J. May". It is unjust as it stands, all round! May it not, perhaps, even now be corrected, before another set of copies are struck off? Would you kindly suggest to her, to have the correction made?

It occurs to me that you may not have the immediate opportunity, which you have so generously given me, to read these vols. yourself. Let me know, and I shall speedily seek the pleasure of lending you my copy!

I met our dear good Wallcut in Bromfield street last Wednesday, & we had much talk together, – in part of yourself. He told me of the new physical trouble you were having, – so troublesome at night. I felt very badly about it. Next day I made all my arrangements so as to spend Thursday afternoon with you, – when a sudden message from my Mother, requiring me to give it immediate attention & considerable time, deprived me of the desired visit to you; – which still I hope for. My mother grows more feeble, but is quite comfortable. I earnestly hope you may get relief from this new difficulty; and I think that you may.

On Friday I met Wendell P. He had not heard of this later disorder of yours. He told me of your being a year younger (if I may use an Hibernian way of expressing it) than you supposed – from a discovery of some early record, giving your birth in 1805, instead of 1804.

I hope you have good accts from Fanny & family. I think I have heard she writes you a daily letter. When you write me, please say how Lucy (McK.) is. My very kind regards, please, to Miss Southwick, & to all yr. Children.

And I am, dear Garrison, Ever gratefully Yours, Sam'l May.

We are all pretty well, now.